problem in Assam is far deeper. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, instead of just adhering to this question of violence being still propagated or in practice in the North-East, particularly in Assam, there is some political initiative or move to put an end to this sort of a peculiar and very said situation in the North-East.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUJPTA: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member and that is the view of the Government also that this kind of prolonged insurgencies which have been going on for a pretty long time are extremely painful and are the cause of concern for the whole country. I agree that they cannot be solved simply by the gun or the use of force. I think, by now, we have had enough experience to realise that gun is not the solution to these problems. The hon. Member wanted to know whether any political initiatives have ben taken or are going to be taken to tackle these problems. Here, I have got to say, unfortunately to repeat what is said in the original reply, that efforts have been made. It is not that efforts have not been made. The Chief Minister of Assam himself had, at one stage, proposed talks with ULFA but later on we found some statements issued in the name of ULFA saying that they were not interested in having this kind of talks.

Secondly, Sir, they are insisting that their original demand for a sovereign state of Assam, outside India, must be accepted and adhered to. Well, I do not think this House will concede that the sovereigntly of this country can be negotiated or bartered. These are the obstacles which have arisen in the way of having fruitful negoitiations not only with ULFA but also with Bodos and even with some of the other outfits. But, I assure the House that the new Government which has just now come to power will resume all possible initiatives that can be taken in order to break this deadlock and try to come to some negotiated settlement.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, the genesis of the problem, is such that it requires deeper study and deeper thought. One of the reasons is socio-economic and demographic imbalances and unjust proposition being perpetrated by vested interests of the various States for many decades. The history of Assam so far has been one of denial deprivation, discrimination, neglect and continuing exploitation of its vast resources. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether anything is being done in this regard for the economic development of Assam, particularly after the report of the Joint Committee has been taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Damage due to heavy Rains and Cyclones

*25. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lives lost and the extent of damage caused to the standing crops, livestock and other properties in different areas in the country due to heavy rains and cyclones;

(b) the details of relief operations undertaken in the affected areas; and

(c) the Central assistance provided for relief work?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) According to reports received from the State Governments, parts of 13 States have been affected in varying degrees by floods as a result of cyclones and heavy rains during the current South West Monsoon. The States affected are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. A Statement indicating loss of human lives and animals and damage to crops and houses in the wake of the recent

floods in various States and release of central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1996-97 is attached. (*See* below)

The concerned State Government have undertaken necessary relief measures in the affected areas. These included evacuation of marooned people to safer places, operation of relief camps, distribution of essential commodities and provision of medical care to prevent epidemics.

Under the existing scheme of financing relief exenditure, the State Governments undertake relief and rehabilitation mesures in the wake of natural calamities using the corpus of the CRF. Two instalments of Central share of CRF for the year 1996-97 have been released to all State Governments. In addition to the CRF, a National Fund for Calamity Relief is also available for meeting the situation arising out of calamities of rare severity.

**Statement**

*Damage caused in various states due to recent cyclones/floods and release of central share of calamity relief fund for 1996-97*

| Sl No | State | Human lives lost | Animals lost | No. of houses huts damaged | Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares) | Central share of Calamity Relief Fund released (Rs in crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 100 | 1607 | 21517 | 0.15 | 46.57 |
| 2 | Assam | 7 | — | — | 0.94 | 18.755 |
| 3 | Gujarat | 54 | 2082 | 69537 | 0.08 | 52.350 |
| 4. | Haryana | 14 | 53 | 6381 | — | 9.395 |
| 5. | Jammu & Kashmir | 28 | 4018 | 17053 | 0.58 | 7.390 |
| 6 | Karnataka | 106 | 495 | 3248 | — | 15.695 |
| 7. | Kerala | 27 | — | 10734 | 0.21 | 20.755* |
| 8 | Maharashtra | 100 | 90 | 1641 | — | 25.575 |
| 9 | Punjab | 4 | | | - | 20.305 |
| 10 | Rajasthan | 86 | 4723 | 76000 | — | 67.140 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | 54 | 10 | 38296 | 0.05 | 22.255 |
| 12 | Tripura | 7 | — | — | — | 1.685 |
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | 54 | 462 | 22758 | 0.29 | 46.920 |

* Released during 1995-96, in advance.

**Health for All**

*26. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes under implementation in the country for providing 'Health for All';

(b) the year by which the goal of 'Health for All' is expected to be achieved;

(c) the steps taken and those proposed to be taken in that direction;

(d) the allocation of funds made to different States during the 8th Five Year Plan for that purpose; and

(e) the details of external aid received so far and expected during 8th and 9th Five Year Plans for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM